Dear Concerned,

According to my **law of proximity**, people perceive things that are close together as a unit. I would suggest memorizing capitals in geographically similar areas. For example, memorize New England capitals together, then Mid Atlantic capitals, etc. This could be accomplished by completing an online puzzle of the states and name the capital as she puts each geographic area together.

Or, she could follow the **law of similarity**. In this law, people organize things that are similar to each other. She could group capitals that are in states with shared characteristics. For example, she could group regular and semi-regular shaped states together, as opposed to states with irregular shapes. She could accomplish this with the same online puzzle, except drag the states to different parts of the screen and name them as she moves them.

Third, she could follow the **law of closure**. This law says that people tend to fill in missing pieces. She could practice with having a map that has some capitals filled in and then fill in the missing ones. Or, she could have a map that has the first letter of each capital on it, and then she fills in the rest. This could be accomplished with a flipchart on an interactive whiteboard where she removes a black-out area over the name of the capital.

A fourth law she could follow the **law of Pragnanz**. This law says that people tend to simplify complex shapes into simple ones. She could make a chart in a spreadsheet program with 15 rows and 10 columns. Then, she could fill the capitals in boxes that approximate where it would be on the map.

Finally, to help create **memory traces**, she could use a simple graphic program to actually draw the map with a or individual states from memory. Be aware that when she does this she may simplify the shapes of the states, but this is a normal process

Sincerely,

Zombie Dr. Wertheimer